IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1   1.   (Currently amended) An apparatus for terminating a physiological process that

2   causes cessation of breathing to occur in an airway of a person due to a complete obstruction of said

3   airway due to an obstructive sleep apnea event, wherein said physiological process is terminated

4   before cessation of breathing occurs, wherein the apparatus comprises:

5   at least one microphone capable of being acoustically associated with said person, said

6   microphone capable of detecting breathing sounds within said airway of said person and capable of

7   generating signals representative of said breathing sounds;

8   a controller coupled to said at least one microphone and capable of receiving said signals,

9   said controller capable of identifying within said signals at least one signal pattern that is associated

10   with a breathing pattern of said person that occurs at the onset of said physiological process, before

11   cessation of breathing occurs, and capable of generating an alarm signal in response thereto; and

12   a stimulus generator coupled to said controller, said stimulus generator capable of receiving

13   said alarm signal from said controller, and in response thereto, creating a stimulus <u>to said person's</u>

14   <u>neck muscles</u> to cause said person to move said person's <u>neck muscles to move said person's</u> head

15   backwards to terminate said physiological process before cessation of breathing occurs.

1   2.   (Currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said stimulus

2   generator comprises ~~one of: a sound generator, a light source, a vibrator, and~~ an electrical current

3   source <u>placed adjacent to said person's neck muscles</u> .

1   3.   (Currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said stimulus

2   generator comprises a vibrator and a sound generator <u>placed adjacent to said person's neck muscles</u>.

1   4.   (Currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said stimulus

2   generator comprises a vibrator and an electrical current source <u>placed adjacent to said person's</u>

3   <u>neck muscles</u>.

1   5.   (Previously presented)   An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising

2   a base station coupled to said controller wherein said controller is capable of sending an alarm signal

3   to said base station to indicate that at least one signal pattern has been identified that is associated

4   with a breathing pattern of said person that occurs at the onset of said physiological process before

5   cessation of breathing occurs.

1   6. (Previously presented)   An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising at least

2   one filter coupled between said at least one microphone and said controller, wherein said at least one

3   filter is capable of filtering said signals from said at least one microphone to create filtered signals

4   representative of said breathing sounds, and wherein said controller is capable of identifying within

5   said filtered signals at least one signal pattern that is associated with a breathing pattern of said

6   person that occurs at the onset of said physiological process before cessation of breathing occurs.

1   7. (Original)   The apparatus as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising an airflow

2   sensor capable of detecting a flow of air within an airway of said person and capable of generating

3   an airflow detection signal that is representative of the presence of said flow of air; and

4   wherein said controller is coupled to said airflow sensor and is capable of receiving said

5   airflow detection signal from said airflow sensor to obtain information concerning the breathing of

6   said person.

1   8. (Previously presented)   The apparatus as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said controller

2   comprises software capable of analyzing said signals to identify within said signals at least one signal

3   pattern that is associated with a breathing pattern of said person that occurs at the onset of said

4   physiological process before cessation of breathing occurs.

1   9.   (Previously presented)   The apparatus as claimed in Claim 8 wherein said software

2   analyzes said signals using Fast Fourier Transform analysis to identify at least one signal pattern that

3   is associated with a breathing pattern of said person that occurs at the onset of said physiological

4   process before cessation of breathing occurs.

1   10.   (Original)   The apparatus as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said controller operates

2   only during one half of the respiration cycle.

1   11.   (Currently amended)   An apparatus for terminating a physiological process that

2   causes partially occluded breathing to occur in an airway of a person due to a partial obstruction of

3   said airway due to an obstructive sleep apnea event, wherein said physiological process is terminated

4   before cessation of breathing occurs, wherein the apparatus comprises:

5   at least one microphone capable of being acoustically associated with said person, said

6   microphone capable of detecting breathing sounds within said airway of said person and capable of

7   generating signals representative of said breathing sounds;

8   a controller coupled to said at least one microphone and capable of receiving said signals,

9   said controller capable of identifying within said signals at least one signal pattern that is associated

10   with a partially occluded breathing pattern of said person that occurs at the onset of said

11   physiological process before cessation of breathing occurs, and capable of generating an alarm signal

12   in response thereto; and

13   a stimulus generator coupled to said controller, said stimulus generator capable of receiving

14   said alarm signal from said controller, and in response thereto, creating a stimulus to said person's

15   neck muscles to cause said person to move said person's neck muscles to move said person's head

16   backward to terminate said partially occluded breathing and to restore normal breathing.

1   12.   (Currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 11 wherein said stimulus

2   generator comprises ~~one of: a sound generator, a light source, a vibrator, and~~ an electrical current

3   source <u>placed adjacent to said person's neck muscles</u>.

1   13.   (Currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 11 wherein said stimulus

2   generator comprises a vibrator and a sound generator <u>placed adjacent to said person's neck muscles</u>.

1   14.   (Currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 11 wherein said stimulus

2   generator comprises a vibrator and an electrical current source <u>placed adjacent to said person's neck</u>

3   <u>muscles</u>.

1   15.   (Previously presented) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 11 further comprising a

2   base station coupled to said controller wherein said controller is capable of sending an alarm signal

3   to said base station to indicate that at least one signal pattern has been identified that is associated

4   with a partially occluded breathing pattern of said person that occurs at the onset of said

5   physiological process before cessation of breathing occurs.

1   16.   (Previously presented)   An apparatus as claimed in Claim 11 further comprising at

2   least one filter coupled between said at least one microphone and said controller, wherein said at

3   least one filter is capable of filtering said signals from said at least one microphone to create filtered

4   signals representative of said breathing sounds, and wherein said controller is capable of identifying

5   within said filtered signals at least one signal pattern that is associated with a partially occluded

6   breathing pattern of said person that occurs at the onset of said physiological process before cessation

7   of breathing occurs.

1   17.   (Original)   The apparatus as claimed in Claim 11 further comprising an airflow

2   sensor capable of detecting a flow of air within an airway of said person and capable of generating

3   an airflow detection signal that is representative of the presence of said flow of air; and

4   wherein said controller is coupled to said airflow sensor and is capable of receiving said

5   airflow detection signal from said airflow sensor to obtain information concerning the breathing of

6   said person.

1   18. (Previously presented)   The apparatus as claimed in Claim 11 wherein said controller

2   comprises software capable of analyzing said signals to identify within said signals at least one signal

3   pattern that is associated with a partially occluded breathing pattern of said person that occurs

4   at the onset of said physiological process before cessation of breathing occurs.

1   19.   (Previously presented)   The apparatus as claimed in Claim 18 wherein said software

2   analyzes said signals using Fast Fourier Transform analysis to identify at least one signal pattern that

3   is associated with a partially occluded breathing pattern of said person that occurs at the onset of

4   said physiological process before cessation of breathing occurs.

1   20.   (Original)   The apparatus as claimed in Claim 11 wherein said controller operates

2   only during one half of the respiration cycle.

1   21. (Currently amended)   A method for terminating a physiological process that causes

2   cessation of breathing to occur in an airway of a person due to a complete obstruction of said airway

3   due to an obstructive sleep apnea event, said method comprising the steps of:

4   detecting breathing sounds within said airway of said person;

5   generating signals representative of said breathing sounds;

6   identifying within said signals at least one signal pattern that is associated with a breathing

7   pattern of said person that occurs at the onset of said physiological process before cessation of

8   breathing occurs; and

9   creating a stimulus to <u>said person's neck muscles to</u> cause said person to move said person's

10   <u>neck muscles to move said person's</u> head backwards to terminate said physiological process before

11   cessation of breathing occurs.

1   22. (Currently amended)   The method as claimed in Claim 21 wherein said step of

2   creating a stimulus to <u>said person's neck muscles to</u> cause said person to move said person's

3   <u>neck muscles to move said person's</u> head backwards to terminate said physiological process before

4   cessation of breathing occurs comprises one of the ~~steps~~ <u>step</u> of:

5   generating ~~a sound with a sound generator, activating a light source to turn on a light,~~

6   ~~activating a vibrator, and generating~~ an electrical current through the ~~body~~ <u>neck muscles</u> of said

7   person.

1   23. (Currently amended)   The method as claimed in Claim 21 wherein said step of

2   creating a stimulus to <u>said person's neck muscles to</u> cause said person to move said person's

3   <u>neck muscles to move said person's</u> head backwards to terminate said physiological process before

4   cessation of breathing occurs comprises the steps of:

5   activating a vibrator <u>placed adjacent to said person's neck muscles</u>; and

6   generating a sound with a sound generator <u>placed adjacent to said person's neck muscles</u>.

1   24.   (Currently amended)   The method as claimed in Claim 21 wherein said step of

2   creating a stimulus to <u>said person's neck muscles to</u> cause said person to move said person's

3   <u>neck muscles to move said person's</u> head backwards to terminate said physiological process before

4   cessation of breathing occurs comprises the steps of:

5   activating a vibrator <u>placed adjacent to said person's neck muscles</u>; and

6   generating an electrical current through the ~~body~~ <u>neck muscles</u> of said person.

1   25.   (Previously presented)   The method as claimed in Claim 21 further comprising the

2   steps of:

3   filtering said signals representative of said breathing sounds to create filtered signals

4   representative of said breathing sounds; and

5   identifying within said filtered signals at least one signal pattern that is associated with a

6   breathing pattern of said person that occurs at the onset of said physiological process before cessation

7   of breathing occurs.

1   26.   (Previously presented)   The method as claimed in Claim 21 further comprising the

2   steps of:

3   recording said at least one signal pattern that is associated with a breathing pattern of said

4   person that occurs at the onset of said physiological process before cessation of breathing occurs;

5   monitoring said signals representative of said breathing sounds as said person breathes;

6   comparing said signals representative of said breathing sounds with said recorded at least one

7   signal pattern that is associated with a breathing pattern of said person that occurs at the onset of said

8   physiological process before cessation of breathing occurs; and

9   identifying within said signals a signal pattern that is substantially the same as said recorded

10   at least one signal pattern that is associated with a breathing pattern of said person that occurs at the

11   onset of said physiological process before cessation of breathing occurs.

1   27.   (Original)   The method as claimed in Claim 21 wherein the step of detecting

2   breathing sounds within an airway of said person comprises:

3   detecting breathing sounds within said airway of said person only during one half of the

4   respiration cycle.

1   28. (Currently amended)   A method for terminating a physiological process that causes

2   partially occluded breathing to occur in an airway of a person due to a partial obstruction of said

3   airway due to an obstructive sleep apnea event, wherein said physiological process is terminated

4   before cessation of breathing occurs, said method comprising the steps of:

5   detecting breathing sounds within said airway of said person;

6   generating signals representative of said breathing sounds;

7   identifying within said signals at least one signal pattern that is associated with a partially

8   occluded breathing pattern of said person that occurs at the onset of said physiological process before

9   cessation of breathing occurs;

10   recording said at least one signal pattern that is associated with a partially occluded breathing

11   pattern of said person that occurs at the onset of said physiological process before cessation of

12   breathing occurs;

13   monitoring said signals representative of said breathing sounds as said person breathes;

14   comparing said signals representative of said breathing sounds with said recorded at least one

15   signal pattern that is associated with a partially occluded breathing pattern of said person that occurs

16   at the onset of said physiological process before cessation of breathing occurs;

17   identifying within said signals a signal pattern that is substantially the same as said recorded

18   at least one signal pattern that is associated with a partially occluded breathing pattern of said person

19   that occurs at the onset of said physiological process before cessation of breathing occurs; and

20   creating a stimulus to <u>said person's neck muscles to</u> cause said person to move said person's

21   <u>neck muscles to move said person's</u> head backwards to terminate said partially occluded breathing

22   and to restore normal breathing.

1   29.   (Previously presented) A method for terminating a physiological process that causes

2   cessation of breathing to occur in an airway of a person due to a complete obstruction of said airway

3   due to an obstructive sleep apnea event, wherein said physiological process is terminated before

4   cessation of breathing occurs, said method comprising the steps of:

5   detecting breathing sounds within said airway of said person;

6   generating signals representative of said breathing sounds;

7   identifying within said signals at least one signal pattern that is associated with a normal

8   breathing pattern of said person;

9   recording said at least one signal pattern that is associated with a normal breathing pattern

10   of said person;

11   monitoring said signals representative of said breathing sounds as said person breathes;

12   comparing said signals representative of said breathing sounds with said recorded at least one

13   signal pattern that is associated with a normal breathing pattern of said person;

14   identifying within said signals a signal pattern that is substantially different from said

15   recorded at least one signal pattern that is associated with a normal breathing pattern of said person;

16   and

17   creating a stimulus to <u>said person's neck muscles to</u> cause said person to move said person's

18   <u>neck muscles to move said person's</u> head backwards to restore normal breathing before cessation

19   of breathing occurs.